

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe the your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Lynx Habitat Management Plan for DNR-managed lands, January 2006
2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Natural Resources
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: Land Management Division,
P.O. Box 47016,
Olympia, WA 98504-7016
Contact person: Teodora Minkova (360) 902-1175
4. Date checklist prepared: January 27, 2006
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Natural Resources
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan review is part of a phased review process including:

- (1) A MDNS was issued on the modifications to the 1996 Lynx Habitat Management Plan on 05/08/2002. The modifications are described in the Agreement Letter issued by USFWS on 04/26/2002 regarding DNR's proposal to avoid incidental take of lynx. Notice of Action was filed by DNR on 06/05/2002
- (2) The Notice of Final Determination for the Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan SEPA was issued on April 8, 2003. The Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan incorporates the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan along with any subsequent changes to the Plan. The Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan was approved in May 2003.
- (3) Final update and current MDNS on the modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan, January 2006.
- (4) Draft and final update of the Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan & supplemental EIS is currently anticipated for draft issuance in late 2006 and final issuance in early 2007. It will incorporate the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This management plan guides management activities that may occur on the forested lands covered.

DNR will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan and will provide USFWS and WDFW with biennial reports. The plan will be evaluated every five years, or more frequently by mutual agreement between DNR, USFWS and WDFW. The purpose of these evaluations is to reflect upon five years of monitoring data and experience in carrying out forest management activities pursuant to guidance contained in this plan, as well as to incorporate new scientific information on lynx ecology and conservation.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- (1) Forest Resource Plan (WADNR 1992)- Policies 20, 22, and 23 guide management of habitats important to the lynx. Draft EIS for the Policy for Sustainable Forests, which is an update of the 1992 Forest Resource Plan, was published in April 2005. The new policy is anticipated to be adopted in late 2006.
- (2) Status of the North American lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) in Washington (WDFW 1993)
- (3) Priority Habitat and Species guidelines for the lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) (WDFW 1996)
- (4) Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan (WDNR 1996)
- (5) Lynx Habitat Management Plan for DNR-managed lands (WDNR 1996)
- (6) Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring, Loomis State Forest, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 (WDNR Annual reports)
- (7) Washington State Lynx Recovery Plan (Stinson 2001)
- (8) Agreement letter issued by USFWS regarding DNR's proposal to modify 1996 Lynx Habitat Management Plan to avoid the Incidental Take of Canada lynx (File # 805.0000) (USDI 2002)
- (9) Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan (WDNR 2003)
- (10) Sinlahekin and South Fork Toats Coulee Watershed Analysis anticipated to be completed in early 2006.
- (11) Proposed Rule on Designation of Critical Habitat for the Contiguous US Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx; (Federal Register, November 9, 2005)

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Sinlahekin and South Fork Toats Coulee Watershed Analysis is pending approval by Forest Practices.

Timber sales and other forest management proposals in the affected geographic area may include Forest Practice Applications and Hydraulic Project Approvals. The

management guidelines in the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan would apply to all forest management actions on DNR-managed lands within Lynx Management Zones.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
The USFWS has issued a "Take avoidance" letter (April 26, 2002, attached) acknowledging that the DNR's Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan is likely to avoid "take" under the Endangered Species Act. Mitigation measures are outlined in the letter and discussed in the plan.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan is developed in response to the federal listing of the species as threatened (USFWS 2000) and revises the 1996 DNR Lynx Habitat Management Plan (WDNR 1996) that had been developed in response to the state listing of the species as threatened. The plan guides DNR in creating and preserving quality lynx habitat through its forest management activities. It allows DNR to meet state and federal requirements for protecting the lynx, while at the same time providing revenue through sustainable harvest management, as well as meeting its other land management obligations (e.g. recreation).

The plan covers approximately 126,212 acres of DNR-managed lands in each of the six Lynx Management Zones recognized by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Stinson 2001).

In order to plan and manage effectively for lynx habitat through time, DNR has defined and classified lynx habitat based on the available scientific literature. Five habitat categories are identified: Open Areas, Temporary Non-lynx Areas, Forage Habitat, Denning Habitat, and Travel Habitat.

DNR's lynx conservation strategy has a multi-leveled structure that reflects the complexity of managing habitat for large terrestrial carnivores. The strategy applies four nested spatial scales: Ecoprovinces, Lynx Management Zones, Lynx Analysis Units, and Ecological Communities. Management ratios and guidelines in this plan focus on the Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU) level, with the small-scaled goal of maintaining the integrity of habitat regularly used by individual lynx or family groups.

	Ecoprovince	Lynx Management Zone (LMZ)	Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU)	Ecological Community
Objectives	Encourage genetic integrity at the species level.	Maintain connectivity between sub-populations, within Washington	Maintain the integrity of requisite habitat types within individual home ranges	Provide a diversity of successional stages within each Lynx Analysis Unit Connect denning sites and foraging sites with forested cover without isolating them with open areas
Management Strategies	Prevent bottlenecks between B.C. and WA by limiting shape and size of temporary non-habitat along the border. Maintain major routes of dispersal between British Columbia and Washington.	Maintain dispersal routes between and within zones Arrange harvest activities that result in temporary non-habitat patches among watersheds so that connectivity is maintained within each zone	Maintain connectivity between and integrity within home ranges used by individuals and/or family groups (within sub-populations)	Prolong the persistence of snowshoe hare habitat Retain coarse woody debris for denning sites

DNR is committed to following the Lynx Plan until the lynx is de-listed, or until 2076 (80 years after the approval of the 1996 Lynx plan), which ever is shorter. DNR will monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Lynx Habitat Management Plan and will report to USFWS and WDFW biennially. The plan will be updated as more is learned about lynx habitat relationships and management strategies, at least as frequently as every five years hereafter.

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist. See Figure 2 of the plan.
The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan covers all DNR-managed lands within the six Lynx Management Zones identified in the Lynx Recovery Plan for Washington State (Stinson 2001). Generally, this area is located east of the Cascades crest to the Idaho border and north of Highway 2 within the following counties: Okanogan, Chelan, Colville, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille.

Most of the area is above 4000 feet elevation and is characterized by boreal coniferous forests and accumulation of deep snow. DNR manages 4 percent of the primary lynx habitat in Washington - approximately 126,212 out of 3,198,238 acres of designated lynx habitat in Washington. Most of the lynx habitat managed by DNR (77 percent, approximately 97,124 acres) is in the Loomis State Forest, which is in Okanogan County.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other _____.
The area covered under the proposal can broadly be described as mountainous.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Slopes vary widely from flat to very steep in excess of 90%.

c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Most of the area falls within Southern Interior Ecoprovince, the eastern part of the area falls within Southern Interior Mountains Ecoprovince. This area was shaped by large land movements and glaciations activities. Forested landscapes exist where the soil is deep enough and the growing season long enough to sustain trees. Site productivity is moderate to low with some exceptions at the lowest elevations where it is moderate to high. Parent materials range from granites and glacial tills to volcanic and compressed sediments.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
The area is generally considered stable with isolated patches of instability. All unstable slopes issues will be addressed during site-specific operational proposals.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
This management plan is a non-project proposal. It does not include guidelines that address filling and grading in the covered area. Issues related to grading and filling will be addressed at the time a site-specific project, guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan, is proposed.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
This management plan is a non-project proposal. It does not include guidelines that address erosion from clearing, construction or use in the covered area. Issues related to erosion as a result of clearing, construction, or use will be addressed at the time a site-specific project, guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan, is proposed.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

This management plan is a non-project proposal. It does not include guidelines that address impervious surfaces in the covered area. Issues related to impervious surfaces will be addressed at the time a site-specific project, guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan, is proposed.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, that may result from project actions guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan will be addressed at the time a site-specific project action is proposed.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood

smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Some temporary emissions may occur as result of action guided by this plan. Emissions are likely to be temporary with minor amount of dust and exhaust from machinery.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. Very few sources of emissions or odor exist that will affect this proposal except for forest management activities and natural events such as fire and flood.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: Measures to reduce these impacts will be addressed at the time a site-specific project action guided by this plan is proposed.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Within the geographic area covered under this proposal there are numerous lakes, ponds, wetlands, and streams. Please refer to A.12 for further information.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

This is a non-project proposal. Site-specific project actions guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan may require work over, in, or adjacent to the described waters. The guidelines in the plan will provide additional protection of vegetative cover along designated travel corridors that are generally located along ridges, as well as the stream and river valleys within the covered area.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material.

No project actions guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan are anticipated to require the filling or dredging of the surface waters or wetlands. If fill and dredge are required they will be addressed in the site-specific proposals. The guidelines in the plan would provide additional protection of vegetative cover along designated travel corridors that are generally located along ridges, as well as the stream and river valleys within the covered area.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Some future project actions may require temporary surface water diversions when installing water-crossing structures. These issues will be addressed in the site-specific proposals.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Some future project proposal may lie within a 100-year floodplain - they will be addressed in the site-specific proposals.

Please refer to A.12 for information on the location of this non-project proposal.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

This is a non-project proposal. No project actions guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan are anticipated that would discharge waste materials into surface or wetlands described.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This is a non-project proposal. No project actions guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan are anticipated to cause water to be withdrawn or significant quantities of water to be discharged to ground water. Issues related to withdrawals or discharges to ground water will be addressed at the time a site-specific project is proposed.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . .; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not applicable to this non-project proposal.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Surface water runoff may occur as a result of future site-specific project actions, guided by the plan, and will be addressed at the time they are proposed.

- 2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

This is a non-project proposal. No project actions guided the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan are anticipated to require discharging waste materials to surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan does not specifically identify measures to protect water, however, the guidances in the plan may provide additional protection of vegetative cover along designated travel routes that lie along major stream and river valleys within lynx habitat. Measures to reduce surface, ground, and runoff water impacts will be addressed at the time future site-specific project actions, guided by the plan, are proposed.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

X__ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, cottonwood

X__ evergreen tree: grand fir, subalpine fir, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, white pine, ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, western hemlock, western larch, cedar

X__ shrubs

X__ grass

__ pasture

__ crop or grain

X__ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

X__ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

X__ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No vegetation will be removed as part of this proposal. This is a non-project proposal. The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan provides guidance regarding how much and where certain amounts of vegetation could be removed while still protecting lynx habitat. Site-specific project proposals will be designed to meet all guidelines in the plan for maintaining the mosaic of vegetation required for quality lynx habitat. Please refer to supplemental Section D for more information.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. There are no federally listed plant species in the area covered by the plan. State threatened plant species: two-spiked moonwort (*Botrychium paradoxum*) five-leaved cinquefoil (*Potentilla quinquefolia*), pasqueflower (*Anemone nuttalliana*). See the 1992 Forest Plan Policy #23 - Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species Policy.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: This is a non-project action. The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan includes guidelines for managing the vegetative cover. All site-specific project proposals will be designed to meet these guidelines. The project actions will include rapid re-establishment of vegetation following a disturbance in order to maintain a mosaic of vegetation types and ages across the landscape covered by the plan.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, northern goshawk
mammals: deer, bear, elk, moose, cougar, coyote, lynx, beaver
fish: bass, salmon, trout

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. Lynx was listed as a threatened species by the federal government in 2000. Seven other federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened wildlife species could potentially occur on the Loomis State Forest during all or a part of their life cycle. The Loomis State FEIS; dated June 1996, discusses the possibility that gray wolf, grizzly bear, upland sandpiper, sandhill crane, western gray squirrel, bald eagle and peregrine falcon could potentially occur within lands covered by this plan. Northern goshawk is a state candidate for listing. See the 1992 Forest Resource Plan Policy #23 on Endangered Species. Please refer to A.12 for a description of the affected geographic area covered by this proposal.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. All of Washington is considered part of the Pacific Flyway, no adverse impacts on migrating waterfowl are anticipated as a result of implementing this Plan. Migration routes for certain animal species may exist within the geographic area covered by the plan. The number of routes and types of species are not known. The Lynx Plan will provide guidance regarding maintaining connectivity with the affected geographic area for lynx using major streams, ridges, and saddles for travel purposes. The affected geographic area is described more fully in A.12.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: Please refer to supplemental Section D for guidelines designed to assure future site-specific project proposals protect lynx and lynx habitat. Site-specific project proposals will be designed to meet all guidelines in the plan for maintaining the mosaic of vegetation required for quality habitat. Other species may benefit from habitat that results from implementation of the Lynx Plan.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. This proposal has no energy needs.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. This proposal would not affect use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
No impacts to energy are anticipated.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
This is a non-project proposal. Future site-specific activities will create only those hazards and risks associated with normal forest practice activities, and may include hydraulic fluids, diesel fluids, and risks associated with fire.

1) Describe any emergency services that might be required.
No emergency services will be required as a result of this proposal. Future activities will require only those emergency services associated with normal forest practice activities.

2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
No measures are proposed to reduce or control environmental health hazards.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
There are no noises in the affected geographic areas that would affect this proposal.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
This proposal would not create any noises on a short or long-term basis. Future site-specific projects following the guidance of the plan may create noises associated with normal forest practice activities.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: No guidelines in this habitat management plan address noises created by site-specific projects.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
Uses of the area consist of all aspects of forest management, cattle grazing, recreation, and rural residents. The affected geographic area is described in A.12 and the referenced documents in A.8.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
No. However, areas within the affected geographic area have been used for grazing of cattle.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
Structures exist within the affected geographic area. These may include old cabins, and old outbuildings.

d. Will any structures be demolished? if so, what?
No structures would be demolished as part of this proposal.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Zoning classifications would vary by county - minimum requirements, rural, forestry or may not be zoned.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Comprehensive plans have not been adopted for all counties in the geographic area of this proposal. Lands within the geographic area of this proposal would be primarily forest lands with some rural.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Some parts of the affected geographic area may be considered sensitive areas for habitat, water quality, and other environmental factors. The plan specifically provides guidelines for maintaining lynx habitat with future project actions. Other environmentally sensitive areas, where they exist, will be identified and assessed at the time site-specific project actions guided by this plan are proposed.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan provides guidelines to maintain or enhance habitat for lynx when a site-specific project action covered by the plan is proposed. Other land use compatibility is guided by other guidelines and/or policies. See No. 8 for additional information. The projected land uses are State Trust Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing. No housing units would be provided with this proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. No housing units would be eliminated.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structures are proposed as part of this proposal.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

This is a non-project action. Views in the geographic area covered by the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan may be altered as a result of future project actions that are guided by the plan. Issues of alteration of views will be addressed at that time.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

This is a non-project action. The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan does not include specific measures to control aesthetic impacts. Aesthetic impacts will be assessed when site-specific project actions guided by the plan are proposed.

11. Light and Glare

a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

No light or glare will be produced.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No light or glare will be a safety hazard or interfere with views in the affected geographic area.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No off-site sources of light would affect this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

No measures are needed.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Many forms of recreation exist within the affected geographic area. These include, but are not limited to: hunting, fishing, camping, ORV use, horse riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. See A.12 and referenced documents in A.8 for additional information.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

The proposal would not displace any existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

DNR will not allow any increases in designated or groomed over-the-snow routes or snowmobile play areas within the area covered by the 2006 Lynx Plan. The plan does not include any other site-specific measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation. This plan would provide guidance to any site-specific project proposal that might impact these uses. See Supplemental Section D for additional discussion.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers are known to be in the geographic area covered by the plan. Future site-specific projects guided by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan will assess the potential for such objects or places.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Given the high elevation of the area (over 4,000 feet), the most likely historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural sites may be prehistoric and historic resource extraction sites (mining, logging, berry gathering, quarries) and spiritual sites. They will be addressed in the future site-specific proposals.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

This is a non-project action. Future site-specific projects guided by the Lynx Habitat Management Plan will assess the presence and potential for historic or

cultural resources. Impacts to sites recorded with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be addressed through a site protection plan developed by DNR's archaeologist in consultation with tribal entities (where appropriate) and with DAHP. In case of inadvertent discovery: 1) Operations in the immediate vicinity of the discovered site will be terminated; 2) DNR's archaeologist will be notified; 3) Affected tribes will be notified; and 4) The region State Lands Assistant and District Manager will be contacted, and work in collaboration with the tribe(s), DAHP, and the archaeologist on issues of recording, evaluation, preservation and notification of other affected parties.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system.
Show on site plans if any.

Highways 20, 97, and 395 are in the vicinity of the state lands covered by the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan. The lands within the geographic area of this proposal are accessed by forest roads, county roads and highways. See A.12 and documents referenced in A.8 for additional discussion of the affected geographic area.

- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
No public transit in the lands within the geographic area of this proposal.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
The proposal would not affect parking in the area covered by the plan.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The Lynx Plan will not require any new roads or streets. Site-specific project actions within the affected geographic area may require new and improved roads. These site-specific projects would be designed to meet guidelines in the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan and will be addressed when proposed.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The proposal will not use water, rail, or air transportation systems.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

This is a non-project proposal. This proposal will not generate any additional significant traffic. Site-specific project actions within the affected geographic area will generate the type of traffic associated with forest practice activities.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan provides guidance to site-specific projects actions that would help to minimize human-related disturbance to the lynx. Examples of measures that might be adopted include, but are not limited to: road closures, gating, reduction of loop roads open to public vehicles, etc. The future proposals would assess the effectiveness of any site-specific measure that might be adopted.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

This proposal would not increase the need for public services.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

There are no proposed measures.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Existing power lines and telephone lines. Campgrounds may have on-site water and sewage holding tanks associated with outhouses.

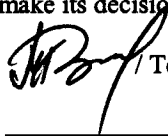
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities are proposed or will be needed for this proposal.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:



/ Teodora Minkova /

Review by:

Title: _____ Natural Resource Scientist 3 _____

Date: _____ 01/30/2006 _____

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(Do not use this sheet for project action)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Implementation of the proposal would not result in an increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. Site-specific project actions would be designed to meet the guidance of the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan. The kinds and impacts of site-specific project proposals are not known at this time. Some of these issues may be discussed in the other documents of the phased review (see A.6).

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

This non-project action would provide guidelines to any site-specific projects in the future within the affected geographic area in order to create, maintain, and/or protect quality lynx habitat and would not result in any increased discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

This non-project proposal includes guidelines that would modify site-specific project proposals and would move the landscape toward a condition that will maintain viable habitats utilized by lynx and its' prey. The proposal provides guidance on how vegetative cover might be manipulated by project proposals designed to follow the guidelines in this plan. When site-specific project actions are proposed within the affected geographic area, the applicant will assess the affects of those site-specific projects at the time the proposal is made.

There are four indicators of habitat quality that can be used to evaluate the affects of forest management on lynx. First, the total amount of available habitat in an area could limit lynx occupancy. Under the guidelines in the plan, the total available habitat in an area will be maintained at a level sufficient for successful occupancy by lynx. Second, a lack of forage habitat, or accessible prey, could limit lynx density within the available habitat. Prey habitat should be increased as a result of the guidelines in this plan. The other indicators are: the degree of connectivity within the lynx's range and the amount of roads open to the public. Connectivity should be maintained at different spatial scales and human-related disturbances should be limited as a result of the guidelines in this plan.

Report on grazing program management will be added in the DNR's biennial implementation monitoring reports to USFWS and WDFW. The report will document annual monitoring of the permit ranges that occur within lynx range to document compliance with House Bill 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-owned Agricultural and Grazing Land. Results will focus on annual utilization plot surveys, pasture rotations, range improvements, and adjustments made to the Coordinated Resource Management Plans during the reporting period. DNR staff is currently developing a process to collect and analyze field data on overall range conditions and trends using long-term nested frequency vegetation plots. The results will be reported in future implementation monitoring reports as

budget and staff availability allows.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:
The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan will protect lynx by providing adequate amount and distribution of lynx habitat on DNR-managed lands. This conservation objective will be achieved through management guidances at four spatial scales - Ecoprovince, Lynx Management Zone, Lynx Analysis Unit, and Ecological Community:

Ecoprovince guidelines

- (1) A system of travel routes will be maintained to connect DNR-managed lands with neighboring lynx habitat and to provide access to drainages throughout each Lynx Management Zone. Travel routes will follow features that naturally connect landscapes, such as major ridges, saddles, streams and wetland networks. Travel routes will be established in all Lynx Analysis Units regardless of percentage DNR-managed lands.
 - 1a. Travel routes are initially developed from topographic maps to provide a network across each LAU. Where available, routes will reflect lynx habitat use patterns as indicated from the WDFW Priority Habitat and Species database. Maps of the currently designated travel routes on DNR-managed lands in each LMZ are presented in Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 in the plan. Routes will be field-verified to ensure that the most suitable routes are selected. Routes may also change as new information on lynx habitat preferences accumulates.
 - 1b. A special management zone (travel corridor) will straddle the route so that at least 330 feet (100m) wide corridor is available to lynx at all times. On average, the forested zone along the travel route will likely be much wider.
 - 1b.i. Actual boundaries of the travel corridor along the travel route will reflect the existing contours of the landscape.
 - 1b.ii. Where the travel route is naturally forested, Forested Habitat conditions will be encouraged within the travel corridor.
 - 1b.iii. If harvest activities must occur within the travel corridor along a ridge or saddle travel route, openings will be minimized (less than 330 feet or 100 m wide), techniques to ensure regeneration will be employed, and forested areas will be left on lower slopes and on the other side of the ridge/saddle to provide lynx with alternative travel routes. In situations where there is a risk of regeneration failure, the preferred solution will be to avoid harvest within travel corridors. Also, the context of the corridor will be considered, so that an appropriate amount of cover is maintained within the corridor after harvest.
 - 1c. If roads must be placed on ridges or saddles due to other priority forest management concerns such as slope stability or water quality, road width will be minimized, vegetative cover will be encouraged on both sides of the roads, sight distance will be reduced (330 feet or 100 m), and/or the roads will be closed as soon as possible, or at least the frequent use of such roads will be discouraged.

Lynx Management Zone Guidelines

- (1) Connectivity within LMZs on DNR-managed land will be maintained. Where DNR-managed land is in a critical position (e.g. a narrow constriction within the LMZ, especially along the British Columbia border), forested strips >330 feet (100m) wide will be positioned to facilitate lynx travel through the area, and/or harvest units will be placed to promote connectivity. This may entail keeping harvest units narrow, small, and/or dispersed.
- (2) Human-related disturbance will be considered in road, harvest, and recreation plans on DNR-managed lynx habitat.

- 2a. Strategies to promote lynx security in road and harvest plans may include decommissioning non-essential roads after harvest, placing gates to limit vehicle access, avoiding loop roads, considering roadless logging techniques, limiting sight distances on roads, and maintaining vegetation on the shoulders of roads.
- 2b. No increases in designated or groomed snowmobile routes or snowmobile play areas will be allowed within lynx range managed by DNR. Maps of the snowmobile routes that currently occur in Loomis State Forest and Little Pend Oreille block are presented in Figures 12 and 13 in the plan. Closure of some areas that are currently used will be considered if specific areas of increased concern are identified and mutually agreed upon by DNR and the USFWS. Strategies to discourage inappropriate use will include signing of gated systems and placement of physical barriers along the entrance to trail or road systems where appropriate. Additionally, increased organized snowmobile use within the LMZs will not be promoted.

Lynx Analysis Unit Guidelines

- (1) The following ratios of lynx habitat components will be maintained in each LAU on DNR-managed lands where DNR manages 20 percent or more of the LAU (Loomis State Forest and Little Pend Oreille Block). See Table 2.1 in the plan for definitions of habitat categories.

Forested Habitat	70% minimum
Forage Habitat	20% minimum
Denning Habitat	10% minimum (including at least 2 den sites/mi ²)
Travel Habitat	40%
Temporary Non-lynx Areas	30% maximum

- (2) Forest management activities will incorporate interspersions of habitat components within the lynx habitat matrix where DNR manages 20 percent or more of the LAU (Loomis State Forest and Little Pend Oreille Block).
 - 2a. Harvest activities will be scheduled so that no more than 15 percent of Forested Habitat within a LAU is converted to Temporary Non-lynx Areas per decade. The time frame for calculating the 15 percent threshold will consist of the 10 years prior to the proposed implementation of a project (e.g. timber sale).
 - 2b. No more than 10 percent of a LAU will be managed at the lower end of the stocking levels that define Forested Habitat (>180 trees per acre or 445 trees/ha) at any one time, and no more than 5 percent of the Lynx Habitat within a LAU will be converted to this minimum condition within a decade.
 - 2c. Forage Habitat will be connected by travel corridors to Forested Habitat within the LAU and located near Denning Habitat (<3 miles or 4.8 km).
 - 2d. Timber harvests will be scheduled and designed so that >50 percent of the periphery of Denning Habitat will be bordered by Forested Habitat at all times.

Ecological Community Guidelines

- (1) Harvest units (Temporary Non-lynx Areas) will be designed to promote swift vegetative regeneration and snowshoe hare/lynx recolonization. This guideline applies to all harvest units regardless of the percentage of DNR's ownership per LAU.
 - 1a. Harvest unit size will reflect the regeneration capacity of the site and contribute to a diverse mosaic of habitat patches available to snowshoe hare and lynx. Units will be designed so that Temporary Non-lynx Areas never exceed 200 contiguous acres (81 ha). Where DNR manages more than 20 percent of a LAU, the total Temporary Non-lynx Area per LAU on DNR-managed lands is limited to 30 percent.

- 1b. Harvest unit shape will enhance the regeneration potential of the unit and provide a diversity of forage and browse opportunities for the lynx and hare. This may include periodic constrictions of 330 feet (100 m) or less within harvest units to provide lynx with opportunities to cross larger units.
- 1c. Harvest unit design will enhance the regeneration potential of the site and provide opportunities for rapid hare recolonization by containing clumps or islands of remnant vegetation and/or woody debris.
- 1d. Regeneration techniques will reflect the unit's potential to produce quality hare habitat (unit quality, according to vegetation association) and may involve use of fire or soil scarification techniques.
- 1e. To minimize potential impacts to snowshoe hare/lynx habitat from livestock grazing, DNR will continue to implement grazing guidelines and requirements that move the resources toward the conditions described by the House Bill 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-owned Agricultural and Grazing Land.

Additional grazing guidelines for the Loomis State Forest are found in the Loomis Landscape Plan, including:

- limitations of grazing pasture units no more than half the active growth period where geographically feasible;
 - limitations on the quantity of top growth to be grazed; use of native plant species where possible; control and minimization of the spread of noxious weeds;
 - improvements of livestock distribution through multiple techniques, deferment of livestock grazing on burned areas for one year after a fire, depending on fire intensity; and
 - evaluating and monitoring cattle access to Riparian Management Zone's after timber harvest and providing for fencing or slash barriers where necessary to prevent cattle induced stream bank damage.
- (2) Quality snowshoe hare habitat, located within lynx Forage Habitat, will be maintained by providing adequate horizontal cover above average snow depth. Horizontal cover measurements will be taken in the 1.5-2.0 meter range of a vegetation profile board at 10 sample points along a transect. Four measurements will be taken from each sample point in the four cardinal directions viewed from 45 feet (15 m), resulting in a total of 40 measurements. Only those stands that receive no more than four "zero" scores (no cover) over the 40 readings will be considered Forage Habitat.
- 2a. Browse and tree cover will be provided by species preferred by hares (according to the vegetative association), if preferred species are identified for the area. Otherwise, forest regeneration efforts will focus on creating the structure (cover density) preferred by hares, rather than the tree species.
 - 2b. Thinning, partial harvests, or other treatments to create forage opportunities in Travel Habitat will be considered. However, pre-commercial thinning will be delayed in Lynx Habitat until self-pruning processes have excluded most live lower limbs within 2 feet of the average snow pack level. The two exceptions are: stands included in an experimental program and stands within DNR's Pend Oreille seed orchard (approximately 40 acres).
 - 2c. Riparian vegetation, such as willow thickets along wetlands, will be included as Forage Habitat.
- (3) To ensure that potential denning structure is available across the landscape, at least two den sites per square mile will be provided in all Lynx Management Zones where DNR manages at least one square mile. Den sites will be at least five acres (2 ha), but many den sites will be located within larger areas of Denning Habitat in LAUs where DNR manages at least 20 percent of the area. According to this "best available"

strategy, den sites will still be identified if site conditions do not match preferred structures, as indicated in the selection criteria.

- (4) Denning Habitat identified for the purpose of meeting the denning habitat area requirement (10 percent per LAU minimum, as described in LAU guideline 2b), where DNR manages 20 percent or more of a LAU, will be selected according to the criteria below. Map of the designated Denning Habitat in Loomis State Forest is presented in Figure 14 in the plan. Denning Habitat designation may change as habitat develops over time or as field verification finds a better quality habitat available. As a result the Denning Habitat GIS coverage will be regularly updated. Should some of the 10 percent be compromised by fire, pathogens, or other unforeseen events, new Denning Habitat will be added.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

While DNR continues to harvest timber, remove forest products, and replant new forests, practices guided by the modified lynx habitat management plan are intended to improve habitat dispersion and diversity across lynx range managed by the DNR. The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan would provide guidance for maintaining lynx habitat while managing the forest resources as specified in the Forest Resource Plan (WDNR 1992) and its update - Policy for Sustainable Forests (WDNR 2005 draft).

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Implementing the guidelines in this proposed plan would contribute to the persistence and recovery of Washington's lynx population by improving habitat conditions within the legal obligations specified in the Trust Mandate (WDNR 1992).

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designed (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection: such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

DNR recognizes the importance of the environmentally sensitive areas. The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan would be applied to all forested DNR-managed land within the Lynx Management Zones identified by WDFW (Stinson 2001) including Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas. The proposed plan would not change any land use or trust designations. The plan is in agreement with the specific management plans for all Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas within the covered area. Management would continue within the guidelines under this plan in order to achieve desired conditions for the lynx and other species requiring special habitats. When site-specific forest management activities are proposed in lynx habitat, the guidelines outlined in this plan would provide adequate protection of the species and its habitat.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Please refer to question 2 in the "Supplemental Sheet".

Implementing the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan would achieve a balance of stands in different structural stages that would: (1) minimize the probability of long term negative effects on lynx, (2) better reflect the land's potential as lynx habitat, (3) better integrate other forest resource concerns, and (4) reflect the current understanding of lynx habitat requirements.

Forage habitat (prey habitat) would be interspersed throughout the landscape and connected to other forage habitat via forested stands or travel corridors. Denning areas would be adjacent to, within, or near forage habitat, connected by other forested stands.

Human related disturbances would be managed at acceptable levels.

Forested lynx travel corridors to adjacent lynx habitat, including the habitat in British Columbia, would be maintained.

Also, any forest management project proposals would be designed to avoid unacceptable lynx impacts by:

- a) Dispersing harvest units in relation to existing habitat elements, and
- b) Ensuring adequate regeneration within harvest units.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

This proposed plan would not change any land use or trust designations. This plan does not identify management activities on specific tracts of land (for example, timber sales). Rather, it will be the DNR's general guidance for maintaining suitable lynx habitat while conducting management activities proposed within the lynx range. These management guidelines are built upon the DNR's management plans, including the Loomis State Forest Landscape Management Plan and should be interpreted as a whole.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:
None necessary

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The proposal would not increase demand on existing transportation, or public services or utilities. Any new transportation routes would be assessed to determine the amount of human-related disturbance that might or could occur as a result of site-specific projects.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

By implementing the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan, human-related disturbance would be minimized with road and harvest plans where DNR manages 20 percent or more of the LAU. Examples include: Gates may be placed to limit vehicular traffic on new roads and creation of loop roads will be avoided. Also, if a road must be placed within identified travel routes due to other resource issues, such as slope stability or water quality, road width will be minimized: vegetation along the road will be encouraged, sight distance will be reduced, and/or the roads will be closed as soon as possible, or at least frequent use will be discouraged.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The proposal would result in DNR continuing to be in full compliance with existing local, state, and federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act.

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